Listing of Claims:

I CLAIM:

1. (Currently Amended) Backing plate (11) for a disk assembly (L) of a force transmitting device,

- the backing plate (11) is essentially ring shaped and comprises,
- an essentially ring shaped core plate (10) and an essentially ring shaped backing shell (9),
- wherein the core plate (10) and the backing shell (9) are provided with flat surfaces in the center region of the core plate and the backing shell and the flat surfaces are positioned in adjacent relationship to each other and the backing shell (9) exhibits a circumscribing (annular) (U_I, U_A) profiling (P) including an annular groove, the profiling being positioned adjacent the periphery of the backing shell to enhance the stiffness of the backing shells in the desired portion of the backing shell adjacent the periphery, the backing plate having external teething or internal teething, in the case of external teething (Z1, Z2, Z3) the profiling (P) is provided in the area of inner circumference (U_I) of the backing shell (9), and in the case of internal teething, the profiling (P) is provided in the area of the outer circumference (U_A) of the backing shell (9) .

2. (Original) Backing plate (11) according to Claim 1, thereby characterized, that the core plate (10) is a disk of conventional shape.

3. (Previously Presented) Backing plate (11) according to Claim 1, thereby characterized, that the core plate (10) carries a friction lining (10a) on its surface opposite the backing shell (9).

4. (Previously Presented) Backing plate (11) according to Claim 1, thereby characterized, that the backing shell is in the form of a disk (9).

5. (Previously Presented) Backing plate (11) according to Claim 1, thereby characterized, that the backing shell (9) is produced by turning or machining, or is a stamped or deep-drawn part.

6. (Cancel)

7. (Previously Presented) Backing plate (11) according to Claim 1, thereby characterized, that the groove (P) exhibits an essentially U-shaped or V-shaped cross-section.

8. (Cancel)

9. (Cancel)

10. (Previously Presented) Backing plate (11) according to Claim 1, thereby characterized, that the relationship of the total thickness (Y_E) of the backing shell (9) to the sheet metal thickness (Y_T) of the core plate (10) is substantially 2 to 2.5, when the sheet metal thickness (Y_E, Y_T) of the backing shell (9) plus the core plate (10) corresponds essentially to the thickness of the disks (6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 16.1, 16.2, 16.3, 16.4, 15.1, 15.2, 15.3) of the multi-disk clutch (L).

11. (Cancel)

12. (Cancel)